

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims:

Please cancel claim 1-4, 6-14, and 16-25 without prejudice to its prosecution in subsequent continuation or divisional applications.

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-4 (canceled)

5. (currently amended) ~~An audio signal processing method as set forth in claim 3, further comprising a step of~~ An audio signal processing method, comprising the steps of:
forming a deleted segment by deleting an audio signal in an anomalous segment,
deducing a correct audio signal by referring to a waveform of the audio signal before and after said deleted segment and evaluating the similarity of the waveform before and after said deleted segment;
generating a repair signal for repairing the signal of said deleted segment based on said deduced correct audio signal, using the waveform with the greatest similarity;
inserting said repair signal into said deleted segment; and
smoothly connecting said inserted repair signal with the audio signal before and after said deleted segment;
wherein the step of deducing a correct audio signal further comprises calculating a correlation function for the audio signal before and after said deleted segment in the step of deducing said audio signal and evaluating said similarity by referring to the calculated correlation function.

Claims 6-14 (canceled)

15. (Currently amended) ~~An audio signal processing apparatus as set forth in claim 13, wherein said deducing means~~ An audio signal processing apparatus, comprising:

a signal deleting means for deleting an audio signal of an anomalous segment to form a deleted segment;

a deducing means for deducing a correct audio signal by referring to a waveform of the audio signal before and after said deleted segment, said deducing means being operatively configured to evaluate the similarity of the signal waveform before and after said deleted segment, said deducing means being further operatively configured to calculate a correlation function for the audio signal before and after said deleted segment and to evaluate said similarity by referring to the calculated correlation function;

a repair signal generating means for generating a repair signal for repairing the signal of said deleted segment based on said deduced correct audio signal, using the waveform before and after said deleted segment with the greatest similarity; and

a signal connecting means for inserting said repair signal into said deleted segment and smoothly connecting said repair signal with the audio signal before and after the deleted segment.

Claims 16-25 (canceled)